

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Argenta Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal EA**  
**DOI-BLM-NV-B000-2018-0006-EA**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed the Argenta Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal Environmental Assessment (EA) DOI-BLM-NV-B000-2018-0006-EA dated September 11, 2020. After consideration of the potential environmental effects analyzed in the EA, the BLM has determined that the grazing management systems analyzed in the EA alternatives, subject to the terms and conditions, will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required to be prepared per Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This finding and conclusion is based on the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and the intensity of impacts described in the EA.

Context: The Argenta Allotment is located within the Battle Mountain District, Mount Lewis Field Office. This allotment is in Lander County immediately south of Interstate 80 and extends approximately 20 miles to the south. Nevada State Route 305 serves as the boundary on the west side of the allotment. On September 19, 2020, a determination document (DD) was completed by BLM. This DD found that the standards for rangeland health (SRH) were not making significant progress or being achieved due to existing livestock management and wildfires.

Intensity:

1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The EA has considered both beneficial and adverse impacts of the livestock management alternatives. Meeting the grazing use indicators and SRH would improve the quality of the human environment as described in the EA. Although beneficial, this improvement is not expected to be a significant short or long term impact.

2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

The overall implementation of Alternative C would not affect public health or safety.

3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

Based on the environmental analysis of the Alternative C, no significant impacts are expected to unique species or their habitats that occur on the allotment, historic or cultural resources, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, and ecologically critical

areas. Prime farmlands and wild and scenic rivers are not present within the Argenta Allotment.

*4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

Based on external and internal scoping, no controversial issues were identified. The effects of implementing the Alternative C, as disclosed in the EA, are not controversial in nature.

*5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

There are no known effects that would result from implementation of Alternative C, as analyzed in the EA, that would be considered uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

*6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

Implementation of the proposed action does not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects and does not represent a decision in principle about a future consideration. Any future actions proposed regarding the Argenta Allotment would be subject to NEPA compliance, and the appropriate level of environmental analysis would be determined.

*7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

Based on review of the cumulative analysis for the Alternative C, no significant cumulative impacts are expected.

*8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

The proposed action would not adversely affect significant scientific, cultural or historical resources.

*9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.*

The BLM requested a species list on December 18, 2015, from the USFWS through the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) website for the Argenta, Copper Canyon and North Buffalo Allotments. No threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat were identified for the Argenta Allotment.

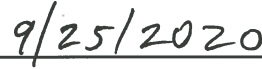
The EA has identified that no threatened and endangered species exist in the Argenta Allotment. Therefore, it has been determined the activities identified in the proposed decision would not adversely affect any federally listed species or their critical habitat.

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

Implementation of Alternative C would not violate or threaten to violate any Federal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. The permittees are responsible for complying with applicable Federal, State, or local laws and regulations and obtaining any necessary permits.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mount Lewis Field Manager



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date